— Basically all-risk insurance scheme covering all yield losses due to natural, non-preventable risks.

— Premium rates are 3.5% for Bajra and oilseeds, and 2.5% for other Kharif crops; 1.5% for wheat, and 2% for other Rabi crops. In case the rates worked out on the basis of actuarial data are less than the prescribed premium rate, the lower rate will be applicable.

— In case of annual commercial/horticultural crops, actuarial rates are charged.

— Small and marginal farmers are provided subsidy of 50% of the premium charged from them. The subsidy will be phased out over a period of 5 years on sunset basis.

— To implement NAIS at lower unit of insurance i.e. Gram Panchayat within three years.

— It is proposed to set up a separate agency for implementation of NAIS.

Biotechnological Innovations for Cotton Growers

1988. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that benefits of biotechnological innovations in cotton seed production, available to farmers around the world, are being denied to Indian cotton growers; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when Government propose to do this to raise productivity, thereby increasing rural income ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Bt. Cotton Hybrids developed by private seed companies through biotechnological innovation are under testing during the current year by ICAR under multilocational trials. After assessing the biosafety and agronomic evaluation of the Bt. Cotton Hybirds, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee of Ministry of Environment and Forests will give the permission for commercial release of these hybrids.

Benefits to Drip Irrigation System

†1989. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the Question was recieved in Hindi.